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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,056	10/04/2004	Frank Dumont	PA020009	6324

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JOSEPH J. LAKS, VICE PRESIDENT
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EXAMINER

MEYERS, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2609

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,056

Applicant(s)

DUMONT ET AL.

Examiner

James A. Meyers

Art Unit

2609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 October 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/4/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the initial filing of October 4, 2004. Claims 1-10 are pending and have been considered below.

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "2", "22", "42" and "52" have all been used to designate a SCART connector. Additionally, reference characters "20", "40", "60" and "80" have all been used to designate a CVBS pin on said SCART connectors. Additionally, reference characters "15", "35", "55" and "75" have all been used to designate an R-pin on said SCART connectors. Additionally, reference characters "11", "31", "51" and "71" have all been used to designate a G-pin on said SCART connectors. Additionally, reference characters "7", "27", "47" and "67" have all been used to designate an R-pin on said SCART connectors. Additionally, reference characters "16", "36", and "56" have all been used to designate an FB-pin on said SCART connectors. Additionally, reference characters "10" and "30" have both been used to designate a video decoder. Additionally, reference characters "12" and "32" have both been used to designate a MPEG encoder. Additionally, reference characters "14" and "34" have both been used to designate a hard disk drive. Additionally, reference characters "24" and "44" have both been used to designate a microcontroller. Additionally, reference characters "18", "38", and "58" have all been used to designate a video circuit. Additionally, reference characters "26", "31", "54" and "66" have all been used to designate a serial bus.

Art Unit: 2609

Additionally, reference characters "60" and "62" have both been used to designate a first video apparatus (page 3, line 28 and page 4, line 33, respectively). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "52" has been used to designate both "a first Scart connector" (page 6, line 3) and "the second first Scart connector" (page 6, lines 10-11). Additionally, reference character "60" has been used to designate "a CVBS pin" (page 6 line 6) and "the first video apparatus (PVR)" (page 6, line 33-34). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Reference character "26" on Figure 2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

4. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be

Art Unit: 2609

notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
6. The examiner notes the use of acronyms (e.g. TV, Scart, DVD, ITU, MPEG, RS232, Cinch, etc.) throughout the specification without first including a description in plain text, as required.
7. The use of the trademarks PHILIPSTM and TECHWELLTM has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology. Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.
8. The examiner notes numerous spelling and grammatical errors in the specification. Applicant's assistance is requested to correct these errors.
9. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 2609

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Examiner's Note: The Applicant has successfully invoked 35 USC 112 6th paragraph in Claims 1, 6 and 8 by using "mean-plus-function" language. "Detection means" and "control means" will be examined as a microprocessor. "Means for recording" will be examined as a hard disk drive. "Means to convert" will be examined as a video decoder.

Applicant appears to be attempting to invoke 35 USC 112 6th paragraph in Claims 1, 4 and 5 by using "means-plus-function" language. However, the examiner notes that no structure is disclosed in the specification about transmission means, or means to modify. While the claims pass the first two tests of the three-prong test used to determine invocation of paragraph 6, since no specific structural limitations are disclosed in the specification, the claims do not meet the third test of the three-prong test. Therefore, 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph has not been invoked when considering these claims below. Transmission means will be examined as any means of transferring a signal between a first and second pin and a circuit. Means to modify will be examined as any signal that can be transferred between the microprocessor and the video circuit.

11. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spiero et al. (US 5,349,391).

Claim 1: Spiero discloses a video apparatus comprising:

Art Unit: 2609

(a) connectors (Column 1, lines 54-55);

(b) transmission means coupling the pins of the connectors and a video circuit (Column 1, lines 55-56);

(c) detection means connected to a pin for determining a characteristic of the video signal (Column 11, lines 18-25 and column 13, line 62 to column 14, line 12); and

(d) control means responsive to the characteristic for sending a control signal (Column 2, lines 40-45 and column 3, lines 12-33).

While Spiero does not explicitly disclose that a single connector contains three signals on at least three pins, wherein two are video signals and a third is an defining signal, he discloses a SCART connector (Column 1, lines 54-55), which has 21 pins; transmission of a CVBS signal on pin 19 and transmission of an RGB signal on pins 15, 11 and 7 (Column 2, lines 1-13), and a control signal on pins 8 or 10 (Column 1, lines 56-59 and column 15, lines 16-32) that carries defining information about the video signal. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to pass both video signals and the defining signal through a single connector. One would have been motivated to do so to reduce the number of connectors necessary on each apparatus, and to facilitate passing the signals to distant apparatuses, as taught in Spiero (Column 2, lines 46-64).

Art Unit: 2609

Claim 2: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and further discloses that the pin containing the defining signal is coupled to the video circuit via a switch, where the switch is controlled by the control signal (Column 10, lines 1-9).

Claim 3: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and further discloses that the microcontroller and the video are linked via a bus able to carry the control circuit (Column 11, lines 51-59).

Claim 4: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 3 above, and further discloses that the microcontroller has means to modify parameters in the video circuit to force operation in one type of video signal (Column 10, line 57 to column 11, line 18).

Claim 5: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and further discloses that the microcontroller has means to modify parameters in the video circuit to alter video processing by the video circuit (Column 10, line 57 to column 11, line 18).

Claim 6: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and further discloses that the video circuit can record the video signal (Column 5, lines 31-41).

Claim 7: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 6 above, and further discloses that the microprocessor is responsive to a selection made by the user (Column 6, lines 19-27).

Art Unit: 2609

Claim 8: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and further discloses that the video circuit can convert the video signal into a digital stream (Column 5, lines 8-18).

Claim 9: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 8 above, and further discloses that the video circuit is a video decoder (satellite decoder, Column 5, lines 8-18).

Claim 10: Spiero discloses an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and further discloses that the video circuit comprises a display (Column 5, lines 1-17).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Meyers whose telephone number is 571-270-1690. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (Alternate Fridays Off), 7:00AM - 4:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Myhre can be reached on 571-272-6722. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2609

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

2/22/2007
JM



James W. Myhre
Supervisory Patent Examiner